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Support for SB 956 (with modifications)

Healthcare for all immigrants

I have lived in New Haven for over 10 years. For 6 years my wife was here with me. Now she is in Mexico, and I am here with my son, so I am a single father. I work in roofing and construction. Due to the pandemic I have been out of work, so I work as a day laborer looking for temporary jobs.

Recently while working, I fell from the roof. No company covered my accident, because I am just a day laborer. Without health insurance, I had to pay for everything.

When this accident happened on December 28, 2020, I went to the hospital for care. They attended me, and they gave me an appointment to get X-rays. After the X-rays, they told me that I needed to have a surgery because my wrist was fractured. The day before the surgery the hospital called and told me that, if they were going to operate on me, it would have to come out of my own pocket. The operation would cost \$7,500 and I had to pay up front, that day, ten percent (\$730) and, if not, then they would not perform the operation because I didn't have medical insurance.

I don't know, maybe because one is an undocumented immigrant they deny you medical care, and we know there are many people who are racist, so I asked the person in charge why, since I had submitted an application for insurance, and the person did not let me explain and hung up on me.

I did not know whether to skip the operation. I thought about staying home. The next day, I went, and thank God they performed the surgery.

Still it's not fair that I might have stayed with a fractured hand because I could not pay the 10%. If I was working as a day laborer, paycheck to paycheck, do you think that I had that money? No, I had nothing, dear legislators. And the bills keep coming. Because of this pandemic and with my weak hand, because I did not receive therapy to rehabilitate my hand, I hardly work more than a day or two per week.

That is why I ask you with my hand on my heart to help us with insurance. It is in your power to make it so we can have basic insurance. Thank you.